

Domestic Violence Coordinating Council
Treatment Committee
January 10, 2018 at 10:00 AM
Middletown Police Department

In attendance were: Brendan O'Neill (Chair); Terry Pepper (*for Hon. Robert Coupe, DSHS*); Melissa Kearney (DOC P&P); Dan Armstrong (CHILD Inc); Shamla McLaurin (Catholic Charities, Inc). Members Participating Via Phone: Claire DeMatteis (Family Court); Blanche Creech (People's Place II, Inc); Ellie Torres (Family Court)

DVCC Staff: Moe Monagle

Public Attendees: none present

I. Introductions:

II. Old Business:

a. Update on meetings between Treatment Programs and P&P:

Melissa Kearney explained that the NCCo P&P Unit met with CHILD Inc and Catholic Charities in October 2017. All seemed to find the meeting very helpful as a way to reestablish and build stronger communications between all organizations. They plan to meet on a more routine basis. P&P and CHILD Inc were scheduled to meet on 1/11/18. Melissa and Shamla will discuss a possible meeting with P&P and Catholic Charities staff.

Blanch informed the group that they were trying to schedule a meeting with P&P in Kent & Sussex Counties to meet with the staff of Turning Point at People's Place II, Inc. Blanch did say she felt that communication has always been open between the two organizations.

b. Evaluation of Treatment Programs: Review of Recommendation #2:

Identify strategies to increase enrollments in the Batterer's Intervention Program by:

- ***Revisiting the issue of costs and sliding scales, in an effort to find ways to communicate more clearly at every step of the process about the costs. Communicate in a uniform manner at every step that the sliding scale is available, so that judges, probation officers and facilitators are offering the same, clear message about program costs.***

The question was asked if the Courts could provide the information on the availability of sliding scale fee. Melissa stated that the P&P Officers

usually do explain the costs associated with the program with the possible reduced fee.

Catholic Charities and CHILD Inc provided their information to the Commissioners and Judges.

Blanch, Shamla and Dan also explained that this information is provided during orientation.

The Committee agreed to continue to support the BIP agencies efforts to communicate costs and process for sliding scale fees.

- ***To the extent possible, strive to insure that facilitators reflect the population that the provider is serving through the program.***

After some discussion about the recruitment efforts and hiring practices of the individual agencies, the Committee agreed to support and encourage the programs to continue with the hiring practices they follow for recruiting and retaining group facilitators and clinicians.

- ***Address the issue of why only 17% of those enrolled in the program between 2015-2016 are there because of PFAs and develop strategies to expand their enrollment into the program.***

The group felt that the enrollment associated with PFA Orders were not the problem. The discussion focused on the concern related to monitoring compliance of the PFA. This was expressed as a concern by all of the providers. Some discussion followed about the absence of the DV Coordinator that Family Court used to have and the need to reestablish that person.

The Committee's recommendation is to support the efforts of the Family Court Enhancement Project to re-establish a position that would be able to monitor the compliance of PFAs.

- ***To the extent possible, consider transportation and scheduling barriers when planning orientations and group sessions.***

The group discussed the challenges with transportation in the lower two counties. CHILD Inc and Catholic Charities are located on major bus routes. People's Place offers the groups in Seaford, Georgetown, Milford, Dover and Smyrna. They also run groups and orientations at P&P offices in Seaford and Dover. They do make efforts to make the locations more accessible, but the lack of adequate public transportation is a challenged.

Each agency has made adjustments to offer options for days and times to improve accessibility of each program. The Committee's recommendation is to continue to support the efforts of each agency to improve accessibility.

III. New Business:

a. Treatment Program Annual Report Update

The annual reports for re-certification are due to the DVCC on January 12th. All provider programs were reminded to submit their information if they have not already done so. Aimee will be convening the certification panel in the upcoming months.

IV. Agency Reports:

- a. Blanche informed everyone that the Executive Director resigned from People's Place II, Inc. The previous Executive Director, Del Failing, has returned to serve as an interim ED. The Board has launched a search to find a new ED. This announcement has been shared with the DVCC email listserve.
- b. Dan Armstrong followed up to remind everyone that Dr Tim Brandau has also announced his retirement date for March. The Board of CHILD Inc has launched its search for an Executive Director.

V. Public Comment

There were no public members present.

The next meeting is scheduled for April 11, 2018 at 10:00 AM at the Middletown Police Department.

There was a motion to adjourn.